

MINUTES
PROTECTION & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Monday, October 9, 2017
City Hall, Room 207
5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Randy Scannell, Vice Chairperson
Barbara Dorff, Ald. Bill Galvin, Ald. Guy Zima

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Asst. City Atty Joanne Bungert, Captain Keith Knoebel, Water Utility General Manager Nancy Quirk, Humane Officer Meves and other interested parties.

1. Roll Call.

Chairperson Scannell, Ald. Dorff and Ald. Galvin were present. Ald. Zima was in the hall doing an interview and arrived at the meeting during agenda item # 7. Ald. Galvin left the meeting during agenda item #9. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Scannell around 5 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Galvin to approve the agenda. There were no objections and motion carried.

3. Approval of the minutes from the September 25, 2017 meeting.

A motion was made by Ald. Galvin and seconded by Ald. Dorff to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2017 meeting. There were no objections and motion carried.

4. Consideration with possible action on a notice of change of agent for Sam's Club #8149 at 2470 W. Mason St.

The Police and Law departments had no objections.

A motion was made by Ald. Galvin and seconded by Ald. Dorff to approve the change of agent for Sam's Club #8149 at 2470 W. Mason St. There were no objections and motion carried.

5. Consideration with possible action on an application for a "Class B" Combination License by ZZQ's, LLC at 1035 Vanderbraak St. (Currently Eagles Club)

The Police and Law departments had no objections.

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Galvin to approve an application for a "Class B" Combination License by ZZQ's, LLC at 1035 Vanderbraak St. (Currently Eagles Club), with the approval of the proper authorities. There were no objections and motion carried.

6. Consideration with possible action on an application for a "Class A" Liquor and a Class "A" Beer License by Kwik Trip, Inc. at 2400 University Ave.

The Police and Law departments had no objections.

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Galvin to approve an application for a "Class A" Liquor and Class "A" Beer License by Kwik Trip, Inc. at 2400 University Ave., with the approval of the proper authorities. There were no objections and motion carried.

7. Discussion with possible action on an update of the lead pipe removal project, as previously discussed at the July 10 P&W meeting.

Nancy Quirk, General Manager of GB Water Utility, spoke before the committee regarding the update of the lead pipe removal project. In July, Water Utility had 700 homes that needed to be checked for lead pipes. Currently, 353 homes still need to be checked.

The Water Utility has knocked on doors to get into the homes and have reached out to the Hmong and Spanish centers to help communicate the lead pipe removal program.

Quirk said the department has also applied for new funding, allowing more funds to be used for lead pipe replacement over the next two years.

Quirk mentioned the department will start next year replacing meters at the homes that need to have their pipes checked. Quirk said it would be a way to get into the homes and be allowed to turn off the water if the owner is not compliant.

Ald. Galvin asked if there was an additional cost. Quirk said no as meters need to be changed out every 20 years.

Ald. Dorff asked if the homes that need to be checked are in the downtown area. Quirk said yes.

Ald. Zima clarified that of the 353 homes that Water Utility has contacted, no one had responded. Quirk said that is correct and that traditionally of the homes being checked that 1 to 2 percent have lead pipes.

Ald. Galvin addressed his concern of rental properties where families unknowingly drink water where lead could be present. He wanted to be proactive and suggested having the meters replaced sooner on rental properties that still need to be checked.

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Galvin to receive and place on file an update of the lead pipe removal project.

A second motion was made by Ald. Zima and seconded by Ald. Galvin to receive quarterly reports as to status of properties not entered yet for the lead pipe removal project. There were no objections and motion carried.

8. Discussion with possible action regarding an ordinance relating to animals prohibited at certain special events, including Farmer's Market events, as previously discussed at the Sept. 25 P&W meeting

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Galvin to open the floor. There were no objections and motion carried.

Brian Johnson, Director of On Broadway, spoke before the committee. On Broadway organizes the Wednesday night Farmer's Markets and said the concern originated when pets would show up at the event and they would cite that ordinance prohibits pets at the Farmer's Market. It was later found there was no ordinance and therefore, would be unenforceable. Johnson wanted the event organizers the option to allow pets. Johnson said he would likely not want pets at the Farmer's Market, but wanted preserve the ability to allow pets at other events. Johnson mentioned there were events in the ordinance that does not exist anymore. He suggested it be more general but strict enough to allow the police to enforce it.

Leah Weycker, organizer of the Military Avenue, Inc. Farmer's Market, said animals are allowed at her Farmer's Market, which is held in the Green Bay Plaza's parking lot every Thursday. She said she has not had any problems with allowing animals. Weycker suggested being broad when drafting the ordinance.

Jeff Merkes of Downtown GB, Inc. spoke before committee. Merkes said his Saturday Farmer's Market policy prohibits pets from attending as it is a food related event. He said those who come with pets and are asked to leave are very cooperative. He said the Farmer's Market is a small percentage of the events happening in the community and latitude should be there if someone wanted a pet friendly event.

Dave Boyce, 123 S. Quincy, spoke before the committee and suggested allowing innocuous pets and an area setup where pets would be allowed in events.

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Galvin to close the floor.

Ald. Dorff said she liked the idea to leaving it up to the organizer of the event, but the concern would be how it would be noticed out to public. Ald. Dorff said there would have to be publicity or it could be hard to be enforced.

Cpt. Knoebel agreed it should be up to the organizer.

Ald. Galvin said the City could not anticipate what public functions will be held in the future. Ald. Galvin wanted an ordinance drafted to have enforcement or not have enforcement based on the owner's discretion.

Ald. Zima said historically Farmer's Markets had no pets allowed. Ald. Zima wanted to know the responsibility the City would have if someone got bit at a special event. Ald. Zima wanted to prohibit pets, but allow the organizer to apply for a permit if the event warrants it.

Asst Cty Atty Bungert said there currently is an approval process for all special events. She suggested in general pets be prohibited at special events, but allow it to be in discretion of the event holder in conjunction with the Special Events approval process.

A motion was made by Ald. Zima and seconded by Ald. Dorff to refer to staff to draft an ordinance for the prohibition of animals at Special Events with an exception to allow for the discretion of the special event holder in conjunction with the Special Events approval process.

9. Discussion with possible action on a request by Ald. Dorff to review the ordinance that allows only two dogs per household and consider a change to allow up to three dogs per household.

Humane Officer Meves spoke before the committee and said she was in favor of allowing up to three dogs in the City. Officer Meves said she receives approximately two requests per week for owners asking to have more than two dogs. She said the owners fill out a permit application, which is approved or denied through her. If denied, they can appeal their decision before the P&W Committee.

Ald. Zima asked what the majority of the complaints are. Officer Meves said her number one complaint is people who feed feral cats.

Ald. Zima asked if the two dog limit is per property or per owner. Officer Meves said the ordinance reads two dogs per lot.

Ald. Zima asked if the ordinance should be changed to per household versus lot. Officer Meves had no objections to that change.

Ald. Galvin left the meeting due to another commitment.

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Zima to open the floor.

Noreen Hamm, 407 Park St., spoke before the committee regarding keeping the ordinance the same.

Pam Parish, 2214 Nicolet Dr., spoke before the committee in favor of allowing three dogs. Parish previously lived in Beloit that allowed up to three dogs.

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Zima to close the floor. Motion carried.

Ald. Dorff asked how many permits are turned down. Officer Meves said she has not turned down any yet.

A motion was made by Ald. Dorff and seconded by Ald. Scannell to refer to staff to revise the ordinance to allow three dogs and change the designation of "lot" to "household" in the ordinance provisions.

Ald. Zima did not support the motion as he was in favor of the system currently in place. Ald. Zima said more animals in the City can lead to more problems.

Ald. Zima wanted the entire ordinance reviewed and asked that people who want more than two dogs appear before the P&W Committee again.

The motion carried with Ald. Dorff and Ald. Scannell voting yes; Ald. Zima voting no.

A motion was made by Ald. Zima and seconded by Ald. Dorff to adjourn meeting. There were no objections and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.